

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Shifnal

Vision

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," (Philippians 4:13) so that I can be the best that I can be and flourish for God, for others and for myself.

St Andrew's Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Strengths

- The school's Christian vision directs and drives leaders' decisions. This enables pupils and adults to flourish and safeguards their wellbeing.
- Comprehensive support enhances learning opportunities for pupils who are vulnerable and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The broad curriculum supports learners through the way it is both accessible and inclusive.
- Worship is shaped by the Christian vision and promotes spiritual development. It is relevant and impactful on the spiritual flourishing of both pupils and adults.
- The Christian vision creates positive, supportive relationships. As a result, pupils have a strong sense of personal justice.
- The religious education (RE) curriculum is challenging, well-balanced and carefully sequenced. This means it is relevant and highly valued by pupils and adults.

Development Points

- Extend the breadth of pupils' understanding of issues of justice. This is to develop their sense of personal responsibility for the needs of others in the wider community.



Inspection Findings

The Christian vision and values of St Andrew's Primary School are at the heart of everything it does. Pupils and adults use them almost subconsciously to guide their actions and decisions each day. Clearly rooted in biblical teachings, the vision is relevant and accessible to pupils. They understand its meaning and how it impacts on their lives. As a result, they show empathy and treat each other with kindness. Adults recognise that the vision is for them just as much as it is for pupils. They treat pupils with love and encouragement, building their respect, trust and confidence. Parents value that their children are contented in school, which they say, 'makes them happy too'. Leaders value the staff, listening to their concerns and sharing in their successes. This creates a sense of being part of a cohesive team. The resulting culture means that leaders and the wider staff work together to be the best that they can be.

The school's curriculum and broad range of extra-curricular activities enrich the lives of pupils of all backgrounds and abilities. The aims and objectives of the curriculum are rooted in the Christian vision. This ensures that subjects are consciously planned, taught and learned with the vision at their core. The increasing number of pupils with SEND and the complexity of their needs is recognised by leaders. In response, the implementation of revised staffing and tailored provision ensures pupils' needs are constantly identified, monitored and accommodated through bespoke support. Pupils live out the vision through the way they respect and accept others as the people they are, without perceiving difference. The clear plans in place for individual pupils create a sense of identity and direction. An ambitious programme of sport, music and visits builds as they move throughout the school, enriching their learning experiences. Staff share in these activities with pupils, sometimes showing that they too can be challenged. This creates strong relationships and allows staff to model the value of perseverance for pupils. Spirituality is embraced across the curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to pause and reflect at examples of awe and wonder. This allows them to develop their own personal spiritual identity.

Worship is thoughtfully planned to be a central and integral part of the life of the school. It is framed around Christian teachings, with the school's core values providing a theme for each term. In this way, pupils become familiar with Bible stories whilst also learning their relevance to their own lives. There are close links between the school and the local church, forged through a strong relationship with clergy and parishioners. Through these meaningful partnerships, pupils and their families are introduced to the life of the church. Some have gone on to be confirmed or to sing in the church choir, further nurturing their own beliefs. Pupils and adults of all faiths and none feel welcome at worship in school and in church. There is a shared understanding that spiritual development is a deeply personal concept. Time for reflection is incorporated into worship. Pupils also have the opportunity to make use of reflection spaces around the school. They openly acknowledge the impact that these have on their lives, enabling them to be calm and celebrate God. Pupils recognise the importance of standing up for their own beliefs whilst respecting those of other people. This creates a culture of acceptance and inclusion.

Relationships at St Andrew's are built on the Christian values of respect and friendship. Adults are open and honest with pupils, allowing them to share ownership of their learning and development. Pupils naturally support their peers both in lessons and at social times so that no-one is left out or isolated. They greet each other and adults with genuine confidence and warmth. Regardless of their role, adults in the school support their colleagues through their personal and professional lives. The wellbeing and mental health of pupils and adults is central to the decisions taken by leaders. Adults feel invested in and cared for as a result. This sense of wellbeing is then passed



on to the pupils in their care. Feeling valued and respected develops a sense of gratitude in both pupils and adults, which gives strength during difficult times.

The school's Christian vision and associated values provide a solid foundation on which a culture of justice and responsibility is built. Pupils have a number of opportunities to take on leadership roles which enhance their sense of personal responsibility towards others. These range from helping out in the classroom through to formal roles such as anti-bullying ambassadors and school council members. There is a shared aspiration to obtain and fulfil one of these roles. Pupils recognise the value in developing themselves beyond the academic curriculum. They have a strong sense of fairness and justice within their own community. They are protective of this, taking responsibility to resolve minor issues themselves, yet knowing when to ask for support. Pupils' perception of justice is beginning to extend to a wider perspective. Aspirational school leaders are ambitious for pupils to expand the impact of their sense of personal responsibility to others. The strong partnership between the school and the local church is mutually beneficial. Working together they support local families through donations to the food bank. Pupils recognise the importance of such initiatives in strengthening and supporting their community.

The RE curriculum provides pupils with a rich and stimulating range of learning opportunities. Leaders have worked with the local authority and the diocese to create a curriculum tailored to the school's context. Priority is given to training staff so that they are confident in teaching the subject. Pupils' learning is further enriched with visits from representatives of a range of faiths. This means that they develop a genuine interest in, and appreciation for, the subject. Leaders and governors regularly monitor the impact of the RE curriculum. This informs future planning to ensure that the curriculum is high quality, fresh and interesting. Strong links exist between RE and worship, with no detriment to the unique characteristics of each. Learning about a range of beliefs and views creates a sense of acceptance where pupils are valued as the unique people they are. As a result of the relevant and balanced curriculum, RE reinforces the school's Christian vision and values.

Information

Address	Park Lane, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 9HD		
Date	06 December 2024	URN	123500
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	380
Diocese/District	Lichfield		
Headteacher	Amanda Skidmore		
Chair of Governors	Donna McNaughton		
Inspector	James Manship		